

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

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TAGS: BGEN, HA

SUBJECT: POST RELATIONSHIPS WITH AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

REF: STATE 094266

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF AN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN HAITI, THIS POST ENDEAVORS TO MAINTAIN USEFUL WORKING AND REPRESENTATIONAL CONTACT WITH ALL INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE RELATIVELY SMALL RESIDENT AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY. AMBASSADOR PLAYS ACTIVE ROLE. REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS DO NOT APPEAR TO BE DESIRED BY KEY BUSINESSMEN.

2. PARTICULARLY DURING PAST TWO YEARS, WE HAVE QUIETLY EXPLORED POSSIBILITY OF SETTING UP AN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HERE, WITH ACCENT ON "HAITIAN-AMERICAN" COMPOSITION. FOR TIME BEING, HOWEVER, THERE IS INSUFFICIENT INTEREST AMONG KEY BUSINESSMEN WHO WOULD BE EXPECTED TO TAKE LEAD IN ITS FORMATION. OTHER FACTORS INCLUDE EXISTENCE OF LONG-STANDING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAITI, WHOSE SENSITIVITIES MUST BE ALLOWED FOR, AND POSSIBLE COMPETITION WITH TWO ACTIVE ROTARY CLUBS FOR TIME OF BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR SITUATION, IN HOPE THAT FUTURE EXPANSION OF US BUSINESS RELATIONS WITH HAITI WILL EVENTUALLY RENDER FORMATION OF AN AMERICAN CHAMBER A NATURAL DEVELOPMENT TO ALL CONCERNED.

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